i) The Central Government or a Government company or a corporation owned, managed or controlled by the Central Government or a State Government or any corporation owned, managed or controlled by the Central Government and a State Government; or

ii) a person to whom a sub-lease has been granted by any such Government, Government company or corporation under proviso to Clause (c) of Sub-Section of Section 3 of the Act; or

iii) a company as defined in the Companies Act, 1956.

Explosion in trucks carrying ammunition near Bikaner

629. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a convoy of trucks carrying tank, ammunition went up in flames after an explosion in one of the trucks near Bikaner, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of loss in terms of defence equipments and casualties; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) An Army convoy of mainly civilian trucks carrying ammunition stationed near Military Station, Bikaner caught fire on 11th January, 2002 at 1500 hours. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the fire and to ascertain the details of the loss due to the outbreak of this fire. From the preliminary investigation it has been ascertained that 17 Army vehicles and 161 Civil Transport vehicles, army assets including ammunition, a unit run canteen, officers Mess, and STD Booth have been destroyed/ damaged. Two civilian persons have been reported to be killed and 13 injured in the incident. Exact details of the losses will be known on the finalization of the Court of Inquiry. To prevent reoccurrence of such incidents enhanced security is being provided to convoys carrying ammunition and restrictions have been imposed on number of vehicles in a convoy. Further, it has been decided to use military transport and trains to the maximum extent possible for the movement of ammunitions.